

SAN DIEGO COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT



2006-2007

ANNUAL REPORT



Celebrating 100 Years
1907-2007

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Probation Department is celebrating its centennial year of protecting the safety of San Diego County residents, rehabilitating offenders, and advocating for victim's rights. This annual report provides a brief review of the department's activities in fiscal year 2006/07 and highlights programs that are keeping the Department at the top of the probation field.

The Department is broken into four service divisions: Administrative Services, Adult Field Services, Juvenile Field Services, and Institutional Services. Collectively the divisions employ approximately 1,000 sworn officers and 400 support staff. They supervise 19,000 adults and 4,000 juveniles in the community; 900 juveniles in detention/treatment; and work with another 1,000 at-risk juveniles through prevention programs to keep them from becoming wards of the Court.

HISTORICAL ROOTS

The Department's history can be traced to Wednesday, October 23, 1907 when the Superior Court appointed a Probation Committee to create what later became known as the San Diego County Probation Department. The committee consisted of three Board of Supervisors and four citizens. They soon hired the county's first probation officer, Jacob A. Reed. He supervised both adults and juveniles. The Board of Supervisors purchased a seven-bedroom farmhouse on 1.5 acres in Mission Valley to serve as the county's first juvenile detention home. The first superintendent and matron, Mr. and Mrs. F. Phelps, moved into the home on November 4, 1909. The home served both delinquents and dependents, from infants to teenagers.

The Superior Court appointed the second and third probation officers, Lillie A. Reed (Jacob's wife) and Mary Beck, in April 1911. The county's auditor refused to pay their monthly salaries of \$120 and \$100 respectively, on the grounds that it was illegal for females to work for the county government. The Court of Appeals ultimately ruled in favor of the women, and they were paid their salaries plus interest.

Sarah Anthony became the Detention Home superintendent on February 1, 1919. The home contained 17 youth on her first day. She taught them to raise chickens, rabbits, vegetables, and bees. The Detention Home was expanded several times and by 1927 had 20 rooms and an eight bed dormitory for older boys; 22 rooms for girls; 13 rooms for small boys; three schoolrooms; a manual training shop; 17 bedrooms for staff; and additional offices and rooms for operations.

The first juvenile camp was established on December 15, 1936 at the base of Mount Woodson in Ramona. In 1942 another camp in Ramona was opened to house younger boys. Combined they housed a maximum of 60 boys, who spent 20 to 30 hours per week clearing fire breaks for the state and attending school at night.



In 1942, there were two assistant probation officers assigned to the adult division who completed 334 pre-sentence reports including social studies while supervising 429 probationers.

The Detention Home, later named the Anthony Home, was plagued with overcrowding and fire code violations throughout the 1940's. In 1950 the



voters passed a bond measure to build a new detention home. Juvenile Hall was completed in 1954 for \$1.25 million. It was called the finest juvenile detention facility in the nation by the San Diego Union. On June 30, 1954, officers transferred 91 wards from the Anthony Home to Juvenile Hall. It was designed for 111, but could accommodate 160 youth with double bunking. Three units served boys, two served girls.

The Girls Rehabilitation Facility began operation in July 1963 when 18 girls moved into an unused portion of Juvenile Hall. The program emphasized freedom of choice, impulse control, responsibility, and cooperative living. On December 3, 1966, Las Colinas was dedicated as the Girls Rehabilitation Facility. It housed a maximum of 60 girls aged 14-17. Girls served four to five month sentences there.

Volunteers In Probation became incorporated in the summer of 1970. Reuben Garcia, a 47 year old construction worker, became the first VIP. The Reverend David Ellisor became the first religious coordinator.

The current Juvenile Court was built in 1985 replacing the old court that now serves as Intake, Booking, and Release at Juvenile Hall. In 1992 Juvenile Hall underwent a major remodeling project. Air conditioning, a new 90-bed wing, three classrooms, and the Sally Port were all added.

Facing overcrowding at Juvenile Hall and overflowing caseloads in the late 1990's, Supervisor Ron Roberts lobbied the federal government to include San Diego in a nationwide pilot project to create an evidence-based juvenile justice system that included a continuum of care including prevention, intervention, diversion, treatment, and incarceration. The system, which later evolved into present day Breaking Cycles, relies heavily on collaboration from community based organizations, law enforcement, schools, the court, and local government to succeed. The resulting system became a model for juvenile justice systems across the nation.

More recently Adult Field Services has instituted a ground breaking program for adult offenders aged 18-24. The Youthful Offender Reentry Program begins while probationers are still incarcerated and provides them with a re-entry plan that includes mental health and substance abuse treatment, job training, access to education, and housing assistance.

The future of probation includes using technology to aid in closer supervision of offenders. The DUI Unit is using alcohol-sensing ankle bracelets to monitor probationers convicted of multiple DUI offenses and the Sex Offender Unit is using GPS devices to monitor the movements of sex offenders around the clock.

INTRODUCTION

Administrative Services provides leadership and support to ensure the efficient operation of probation services throughout the county. Administrative Services maintains fiscal stability; customer satisfaction; a skilled, diverse and competent workforce; essential infrastructure; accountability; and transparency to guarantee that the County's strategic initiatives (Kids, Environment, and Safe and Livable Communities) remain the focus of all probation programs and services. Administrative Services divisions include Management Services; the Research, Development and Infrastructure Unit (RDI); and Public Affairs.



Osee Rull

Probation Manager

MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Management Services coordinates the functions of the Fiscal and Accounting units, Contract Development and Management, Human Resources, and Facilities Management. During FY 06-07, the Fiscal and Accounting units developed and managed a \$156 million budget and provided appropriate oversight and audits to ensure accountability and transparency. The Department requires a high level of sophistication in its recruitment, hiring and retention strategy. These services are provided by dedicated teams of personnel officers, background investigators, training and development officers and internal affairs personnel.

The Training and Development Unit provides in-house training to more than 1,000 sworn peace officers, who must receive a minimum of 40 hours of training per year. This training includes the use of firearms, non-lethal force, deescalation techniques, search and seizure, and more.

The Contract Management Unit oversees the Department's service provider contracts with 24 community-based organizations, schools, and government agencies totaling more than \$9.5 million.



Natalie Pearl

Probation Director

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The research function is focused on discovering, implementing and evaluating evidence-based practices, practices backed by valid research that have demonstrated an ability to reduce recidivism. The development function is responsible for the continuous improvement of Probation's automated case management system, PCMS. Infrastructure ensures that the department has the necessary hardware and software to stay current in today's highly dynamic technological environment.



Derryl Acosta

Public Affairs Officer

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Public Affairs is responsible for coordinating all internal and external communications for the department. This includes responding to media and public inquiries, organizing community events, managing the speaker's bureau, and holding employee recognition events. This year's Juvenile Hall Open House processed more than 4,100 visitors, an all-time record. The unit was also instrumental in placing multiple positive stories about the department in the local media.

